



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

April 15, 2008

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name and title.

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

## SACRAMENTO UPDATE

### Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

**AB 2270 (Laird and Feuer)**, as amended on March 25, 2008, would: 1) require the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) to update the targets for utilizing recycled water Statewide every five years; 2) reduce the frequency of reporting recycled water use by agencies from quarterly to annually; and 3) authorize any local agency that maintains a community sewer system to take action to control residential salinity introduced into the waste water system, including discharge from water softeners, to protect the water quality of the State, if DWR or a regional water quality control board makes a finding that the control of residential salinity will contribute to achievement of water quality objectives.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) indicates that the five-year target updates in AB 2270 would increase the importance and visibility of Statewide efforts to increase the utilization of recycled water. The revised reporting requirements from quarterly to yearly will ease the burden on agencies, such as the County's Waterworks Districts, that would be the providers of recycled water. In addition to improving some of the processes surrounding the use of recycled water, DPW indicates that the bill would provide local authority to control the use of water softeners. Water softeners increase the salinity of discharges to the sanitary sewers serving the community. DPW notes that salinity is extremely difficult and costly to remove from the waste water stream. Sewage treatment plants typically do not remove salinity. Consequently, sewage treatment plant effluent, including effluent treated to State standards for use as recycled

water, contain elevated chloride concentrations as a by-product of water softeners in the sewage treatment plant service area.

DPW indicates that high chloride concentrations are one of the main reasons the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) insists on strictly regulating the use of recycled water for groundwater recharge. The Antelope Valley area of Los Angeles County is of special concern to the RWQCB as there is no outlet from the valley. As such, all the chloride contained in sewage treatment effluent, including that which is intended for use as recycled water, remains in the Antelope Valley. Over time, this chloride has the potential to build up and adversely affect agricultural uses of groundwater in the valley. DPW indicates that the authority to control water softeners is an important step forward in increasing the use of recycled water in the Antelope Valley and others areas in the County.

DPW and this office recommend support of AB 2270. Support is consistent with existing policy to support State legislation to increase the use of recycled water within Los Angeles County. **Therefore, our Sacramento advocates will support AB 2270.**

Support and Opposition to AB 2270 is currently unknown. This measure is set for hearing on April 15, 2008 in the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee.

**AB 2527 (Berg)**, as amended on April 7, 2008, would clarify provisions that govern local public agency participation in the Medi-Cal Targeted Case Management (TCM) and Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) billing options. TCM and MAA are programs under which certain services undertaken by local government agencies are eligible for partial reimbursement through the Federal Medicaid program. Federal law permits local public agencies, such as Children and Families Commissions, to use tax revenue to fund TCM and MAA if these revenues are certified public expenditures. However, State law is not clear regarding the use of funds from agencies other than local government agencies, which are defined as counties or charter cities.

In many counties, including Los Angeles County, Children and Families Commissions use tax revenue to fund activities to assist in linking beneficiaries to appropriate Medi-Cal services. The TCM and MAA programs permit the Commissions, in conjunction with the counties, to claim Federal reimbursement for a portion of the cost of these activities. These funds are then reinvested in the community to expand and improve services for low-income families.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) indicates that Los Angeles County collaborates with First 5 LA to generate revenue through provision of MAA reimbursable activities such as outreach and enrollment of children into various health programs, including Medi-Cal and Healthy Kids, which generates revenue of approximately \$800,000

annually. AB 2527 would clarify that funds from governmental agencies other than local governmental agencies, including First 5 Commissions, may be used for TCM and MAA. DPH and this office support AB 2527. AB 2527 is consistent with County policy to support proposals to increase Federal Medicaid payments to California and health providers such as the County. **Therefore, our Sacramento advocates will support AB 2527.**

AB 2527 is sponsored by the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging and First 5 Association of California. It is supported by the County Health Executives Association of California, California State Association of Counties, First 5 LA, and the Regional Council of Rural Counties. There is no registered opposition. AB 2527 is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Health Committee on April 15, 2008.

#### **Status of County-Sponsored Legislation**

**County-sponsored AB 2607 (Davis)**, as amended on April 1, 2008, which would authorize the Counties of Los Angeles and Orange to participate in a pilot program to permit the electronic filing of Statements of Economic Interest (Form 700), from January 1, 2009 to January 1, 2012, passed the Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting on April 10, 2008 by a vote of 7 to 0. The bill was amended to exclude Ventura County, at its request, from participating in the pilot program. AB 2607 now proceeds to the Appropriations Committee.

#### **Status of County Advocacy Legislation**

**County Supported AB 1491 (Jones)** as amended March 3, 2008, which would extend the deadline for the transfer of court facilities from the County to the State, passed the Assembly Floor for concurrence in Senate amendments on April 14, 2008, by a vote of 68 to 0. AB 1491 now proceeds to the Governor's Desk.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:GK:MAL  
DD:IGR:hg

c: All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist  
Local 721  
Coalition of County Unions  
California Contract Cities Association  
Independent Cities Association  
League of California Cities  
City Managers Associations  
Buddy Program Participants